

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 SS-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2719

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FOR CU/CP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: ARENA STAGE

REF: STATE 197434, MOSCOW 12233

1. TRANSLATION OF "OUR TOWN/ DONE BY GOSKONTSERT FROM YUGOSLAV EDITION (IN ENGLISH). TRANSLATION WAS RECEIVED BY INTERPRETER EVENING SEPTEMBER 30 IN TYPE-WRITTEN, UNPUBLISHED FORM. INTERPRETER HAD ASKED ARENA OFFICIALS FOR THEIR STAGE SCRIPT UPON ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW BUT SCRIPTS WERE PACKED IN CRATE AND UNAVAILABLE UNTIL MORNING, OCTOBER 1. WHEN INTERPRETER RECEIVED ARENA SCRIPT, SHE FOUND IT DID NOT RPT NOT CORRESPOND TO GOSKONTSERT PROVIDED TRANSLATION IN MANY PLACES. INTERPRETER ATTEMPTED RECONCILE TWO SCRIPTS UP TO TIME OF OPENING PERFORMANCE. ZELDA FICHANDLER HAS BEEN WORKING WITH INTERPRETER (MOSCOW REFTEL) WITH NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT. EMBASSY/DEPT ESCORT OPINION IS THAT INTERPRETATION AT PRESENT IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE.

2. INTERPRETER IS PROFESSIONAL GOSKONTSERT ESCORT INTERPRETER WHO HAS WORKED WITH NEW YORK CITY BALLET, SF SYMPHONY. SHE ALSO SIMULTANEOUSLY INTERPRETED ALL PERFORMANCES OF CANADIAN SHAKESPEARE THEATER EARLIER THIS YEAR. INTERPRETER DID NOT RPT NOT HERSELF TRANSLATE SCRIPT.

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3. EMBASSY/DEPT ESCORT ON REFLECTION TEND AGREE ONE

UNOBTRUSIVE VOICE READING WITH UNDERSTANDING IS ARTISITICALLY PREFERABLE. IN ADDITION THERE ARE SOMETIMES THREE OR MORE PEOPLE ON STAGE AT ONE TIME, ALL SPEAKING.

4. BOTH NIGHTS SO FAR AUDIENCE REACTION TO DIALOGUE HAS BEEN TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE.

5. ZELDA FICHANDLER HAS BEEN WORKING WITH INTERPRETER ON "INHERIT" SCRIPT, LINE-BY-LINE. DURING OCTOBER 5 REHEARSAL, FICHANDLER SAT NEXT TO INTERPRETER, STOPPING REHEARSAL WHEN NECESSARY.

6. CERTAIN PERCENTAGE TICKETS FOR FOREIGN ATTRACTIONS PERFORMING IN USSR ALWAYS ALLOCATED FOR OFFICIALS. FYI: EMBASSY BELIEVES FROM STATE REFTEL THAT KAISER MAY HAVE FAILED PUT FULL STORY IN CONTEXT. HE OVERHEARD AT EMBASSY PARTY OCTOBER 4 REMARKING HOW MANY "UNOFFICIAL" SOVIETS WERE ABLE GET TICKETS. END FYI. GOSK TOUR DIRECTOR, A FORMER ACTOR, CONGRATULATED EMBOFF AFTER SUCCESSFUL OPENING PERFORMANCE. HE COMMENTED ON WARMTH OF AUDIENCE SYAING WE HAD PASSED AN IMPORTANT TEST. HE SAID EIGHTY PER CENT OF TICKETS ON OPENING NIGHT GO TO SELECTED GROUPS AND FACT THEY DID NOT WALK OUT, AS THEY OFTEN DID, WAS A SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS FOR ARENA. BECAUSE TICKETS ALWAYS ALLOCATED, EMBASSY PURCHASES OWN SUPPLY FOR PRESENTATION. IN ADDITION EMBASSY ARRANGED WITH MINCULT FOR TWO HUNDRED STUDENTS AND PEOPLE FROM THEATRICAL/CULTURAL WORLD ATTEND BOTH DRESS REHEARSALS AT NO COST.

7. EMBASSY STILL EXAMINING COMPOSITION OF AUDIENCE BUT ALREADY APPARENT CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF TICKETS WENT TO GENERAL PUBLIC, INCLUDING STUDENTS AND MEMBERS DISSIDENT COMMUNITY. DUBS

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